



National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION/National Center for Health Statistics

...monitoring the Nation's Health



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics



NHANES

NATIONAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION EXAMINATION SURVEY

What is the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey?

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) are studies conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics -- a Federal agency that gathers health data for the United States.

For more than 35 years, we have had short interviews around the country in homes like yours. We use these short interviews to choose some households to take part in the survey. The survey includes more detailed interviews and physical exams for some people in each household. The exams are conducted in mobile centers that are located in the communities selected for the survey.

From NHANES, we learn about the health of people in the United States. We find out about dental health, hearing and vision, and the kind of nutrition each person has. We take body measurements, such as height and weight, and look for certain diseases and health conditions.

We use the data to solve health problems, to develop health programs, and to improve the quality of health care.

The current NHANES survey began in 1999. It will now be an on-going program and will go to locations in all parts of the United States.

How will I recognize the survey interviewer?

The person who comes to your home will have an official identification card from the U.S. Public Health Service. His or her photo will be on the card.

How was I chosen for the interview?

Because we cannot talk to everyone in the country, we choose certain households to represent many others. To do this scientifically, we begin by selecting certain counties or cities. Then in these areas, we choose smaller areas such as blocks. Finally, we select a few houses within the small areas.

The people who live in these houses make up a "sample" of the people in the counties and cities chosen. We do not know who lives in any of the houses before we arrive to conduct the interview.

Your home has been chosen to take part in the short interview that we use to decide who will take part in this NHANES.

How do I know that information about me will be kept confidential?

We respect your privacy. Public laws keep all information you give confidential.

We will hold all data we collect in the strictest confidence. We gather and protect all information according to requirements of Federal Laws: The Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242k) authorizes collection and Section 308(d) of that law (42 USC 242m) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552A) prohibit us from giving out information that identifies you or your family without your consent. This means that we cannot release any fact about you without your consent, even if a court of law asks for it. We will keep all survey data safe and secure. When we allow researchers to use survey data, we protect your privacy. We assign code numbers to replace names or other facts that could identify you.

We combine your answers with those from thousands of other people. We report survey findings in percentages and totals to protect the privacy of those who took part in the survey.

We appreciate your talking with our survey interviewer. By taking part in this survey, you will help add to our information about the health of people living in the United States.

NCHS internet address: www.cdc.gov/nchswww/